



14th Legislative District



Toll-free legislative hotline: 1-800-562-6000

★ *Your 14th Legislative District Team* ★

We are pleased to introduce Rep. Norm Johnson to our 14th Legislative District team. Norm is a former Yakima city councilman and a retired school principal.

Rep. Charles Ross, who served as mayor in his hometown of Naches before becoming state representative, is back for another two-year term in the House of Representatives. Senator Curtis King, a native of Union Gap and longtime Yakima employer, is continuing in the state Senate, where members serve four-year terms.

Our commitment to the 14th Legislative District remains strong. We are working together for the people of Yakima, Union Gap, Selah, Naches, Tieton, and the rest of the Upper Valley.

Senator **Curtis King**
Representative **Charles Ross**
Representative **Norm Johnson**

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Committees:

Early Learning and K-12 Education
—*Republican leader*
Labor, Commerce and Consumer Protection
Rules
Transportation



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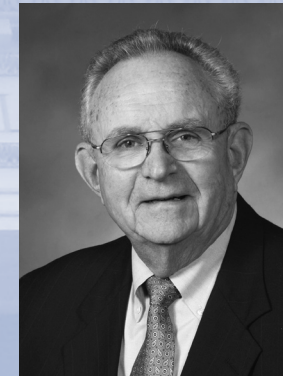
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Assistant Floor Leader

Committees:

Judiciary
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Ways and Means



**Representative
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Committees:

Audit Review and Oversight
—*Republican leader*
Education
Health and Human Services
Appropriations
Rules
Transportation

As our state faces an economic crisis and an expected shortfall of nearly \$9 billion for the next biennium, I do not believe that higher taxes are the answer to Olympia's budget trouble. The state expects to collect more revenue in the next two years than in the current biennium ending this June. It is possible to craft a balanced budget without raising taxes or decimating funding for core services, and still provide protection for our most vulnerable citizens, like those at Yakima Valley School. The best way to increase revenue for these services is by reviving our economy. That means supporting the businesses that create the jobs our people need, and preserving current jobs.

At the beginning of this session I had three local goals. The first was to keep Yakima Valley School open. We are still working on making that happen. Second was to keep monies for the Selah bypass in the budget, which we believe we have accomplished. The third was to allow the start of construction on I-82/Valley Mall Boulevard this year, and that has been signed by the governor.

I'm also working on issues addressing early learning and K-12 education. The state's budget situation, understandably, affects our ability to make changes which appear to have merit, but come with an enormous price tag.

It is a privilege and honor to serve you and to work with Representatives Ross and Johnson on the issues that are so important to our Valley and our state.

This has been a very challenging session this year. It is heart-breaking to hear of all the cuts to education and vital services while more than 400 citizens each day lose their jobs. My goal is to pass a responsible budget that does not raise your taxes and still protects those who cannot help themselves, like those at the Yakima Valley School. In times like these, we must look to our neighbors and American innovation to boost our spirits and economy.

This economic downturn also provides us with an opportunity to create a more efficient government that is responsive to your needs. While 60,000 employees in the private sector lost their jobs at the end of last year, state and local government continued to grow with 3,800 new jobs. I believe in creating job opportunities, but not at the cost of hard-working taxpayers.

Public safety remains one of my top priorities. The gang bill we passed last year is being used well in Yakima, shown by the appointment of two new prosecutors who will specialize in gang-related crimes. I'm proud of our communities for stepping up and forming the Gang Enforcement Team, holding rallies and addressing the problem of gangs in schools. Now the state needs to step up with funding to give law enforcement and communities more resources. Unfortunately, misplaced priorities along with unsustainable budget practices have left many great public safety initiatives behind as we try to balance the state's budget.

It's a great honor to serve as your representative. Thank you for all your important feedback, please continue to write or call.

I remain very concerned about our state's economy and loss of jobs. In February, more than 330,000 Washingtonians were out of work. We lost nearly 25,000 jobs in one month. That's one reason why the Legislature should avoid tax increases as it tries to address an unprecedented budget deficit of nearly \$9 billion.

Unfortunately, it seems not only is a tax package coming, but the majority party won't have the courage to defend and vote on their own proposal. They will send it to you, the voter, so they're off the hook politically for tax increases.

Taxpayers and employers did not create this crisis, and you should not be expected to bail out state government. I believe we must pass a no-new-taxes budget that prioritizes essential services, ensures quality education and protects our state's most vulnerable citizens. That also includes preserving the Yakima Valley School in Selah.

For 50 years, the school has provided a home for the developmentally disabled. It offers the best of care for its residents, as well as jobs for 275 people in Selah. Any move would be costly, not only in terms of dollars, but the emotional price families would pay as they are separated from their loved ones. I have formed a coalition of legislators who are working with me to save the Yakima Valley School.

I encourage you to visit my Web site and sign up for my e-newsletter to get more information. Go to: www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Johnson.